

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A process is provided for treating a basic metal oxide olefin isomerization catalyst, such as magnesium oxide. The catalyst is activated by contact with a deoxygenated nitrogen under activation conditions. The olefin isomerization process and catalyst described herein are advantageously used for the production of a terminal olefin such as 1-butene from an internal olefin such as 2-butene.